

Guidance on Ethics Law for Legislators

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ACTION	ALLOWED?	CITE
Foreign travel using state funds	Allowed, if legislator proves a legislative purpose beforehand	HB 44 § 3 AS 24.10.120(a), 24.10.130 (b) & (c)
Accept a meal from a lobbyist	Allowed, if meal is food and nonalcoholic beverages for immediate consumption and: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • valued at \$15 or less, OR • Part of an event open to all legislators NOTE: Confirmed that there is no aggregate/annual limit	HB 44 § 6 & 10; AS 24.45.121(a), 24.60.080(a); informal clarification
<p>The following guidance relates to actions that can be taken if a legislator has a financial conflict with a bill or subject per AS 24.60.030.</p> <p>Advisory Opinion 18-05 provides more guidance and hypotheticals on determining whether a conflict exists.</p>		
Committee Debate/Discussion/Testimony on conflicted bill/topic	Allowed NOTE: Staff recommends that members disclose a conflict when discussion begins to avoid the appearance of impropriety.	AO 18-05 pages 6-12; AO 19-01, pages 5-7. Questions 1-2; informal clarification
Meeting on conflicted bill/topic with constituents/interest groups outside of public committee meeting (e.g. office meeting)	Not Allowed NOTE: Scheduling a meeting in your official office, even if just to listen, could be construed as “official action.”	AO 19-01 pages 7-10. Questions 3-5.
Draft/Offer an amendment	Not Allowed NOTE: This also applies to requesting draft amendments from Legislative Legal before the bill/subject has been scheduled for committee or the floor.	AO 19-01 page 10. Question 6(a).
Vote on an amendment	Allowed, after disclosure of conflict	AO 19-01 pages 10-11. Question 6(b).
Vote on moving bill from committee	Allowed, after disclosure of conflict	AO 19-01 page 11. Question 6(c).
Sign committee report for bill	Allowed, after disclosure of conflict	AO 19-01 page 11. Question 6(d) & (e).